

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200506  
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 AID-05  
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CG-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 FEA-01 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 /123 R

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NSF/DPP - MR. ANDERSEN (SUBS)

-----021735 231953Z /62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

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AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO IMMEDIATE

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INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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PAGE 02 STATE 200506

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, UNESCO, AORG, AR

SUBJECT:ANTARCTIC TREATY AND INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION  
OF BIOMASS RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6014 (NOTAL)

1. ON AUGUST 23, 1977, DEPT. SENT THE FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE TO ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, D.C. IN RESPONSE TO SAME ARGENTINE AIDE-MEMOIRE AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL (BEING REPEATED TO ALL ADDRESSEES):
2. IN REPLY TO THE AIDE-MEMOIRE OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DATED AUGUST 15, 1977, CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF THE BIOMASS PROGRAM, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD FIRST LIKE TO REITERATE ITS SUPPORT OF THE BIOMASS RESEARCH PROGRAM, RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR SCIENTIFIC DATA AND INFORMATION FOR THE CONSERVATION AND WISE MANAGEMENT OF THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOTES THAT A GROUP OF SPECIALISTS JOINTLY ESTABLISHED BY SCAR AND SCOR MADE THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE "IOC UNDERTAKE THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION OF BIOMASS" AND THAT THE SCAR/SCOR GROUP OF

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PAGE 03 STATE 200506

SPECIALISTS ON THE LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN "ACT AS THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PLANNING GROUP FOR BIOMASS." THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO NOTES THAT ARTICLE III OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY STATES THAT "EVERY ENCOURAGEMENT SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH THOSE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS ... HAVING A SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA".

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED THAT, IF THE PROPOSAL OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT IS FOLLOWED, SCAR AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL BODY WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION IN SUPPORT OF BIOMASS. IN THIS REGARD, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO NOTES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE IOC AND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ITS INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE SOUTHERN OCEAN ARE APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE FOR THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION OF THE BIOMASS PROGRAM.

THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT APPROPRIATE THAT 1) SCAR AND SCOR ESTABLISH AN INTERNA-

TIONAL SCIENTIFIC PLANNING GROUP WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SCIENTIFIC GUIDANCE FOR THE BIOMASS PROGRAM, AND 2) THE IOC UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION OF THE PROGRAM. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS, OF COURSE, WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO TRY TO DEVELOP AN APPROACH TO THIS QUESTION WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ALL NATIONS CONCERNED.

3. DISCUSSION WITH REP OF ARGENTINE EMBASSY REVEALED THAT THEIR MAIN CONCERN IS THAT NON-TREATY STATES MAY TRY TO USE IOC/SOC AS A FORUM TO GAIN CONTROL OVER ANTARCTICA AFFAIRS. IN ADDITION TO MAKING POINTS IN AIDE-MEMOIRE, DEPT. STATED THAT KEY U.S. CONCERN WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 200506

THAT BIOMASS PROGRAM GO FORWARD, AND THAT U.S. WOULD OPPOSE ANY SUCH POLITICIZATION OF SOC.

4. NEXT MEETING OF IOC INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP FOR THE SOUTHERN OCEAN (SOC) WILL BE IN LONDON, 30 AUGUST - 3 SEPTEMBER 1977. MEETINGS OF SOC ARE OPEN TO ALL IOC MEMBER STATES. COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN LAST MEETING OF SOC (1974) WERE ARGENTINA, UK, CHILE, BRAZIL, FRANCE, NORWAY, SOUTH AFRICA, USA AND USSR. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THESE SAME COUNTRIES WILL ATTEND UP-COMING MEETING PLUS POSSIBLY AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, JAPAN, AND NEW ZEALAND. EMBASSIES WILL NOTE THAT ALL OF THESE

COUNTRIES ARE TREATY PARTIES. ALL ADDRESSEES HOST GOVERNMENTS ARE MEMBERS OF IOC EXCEPT CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

5. FOR YOUR INFO, PURPOSE OF IOC IS "TO PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION WITH A VIEW TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE NATURE AND RESOURCES OF THE OCEANS THROUGH THE CONCERTED ACTION OF ITS MEMBERS." TERMS OF REFERENCE OF SOC INCLUDE "TO DEVELOP MEANS OF COORDINATING EXISTING AND PLANNED OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE REGION" AND "...TO FOSTER SPECIFIC STUDIES OF LIMITED EXTENT TO FILL GAPS IN PRESENT KNOWLEDGE."

6. BUENOS AIRES: PLEASE DELIVER ABOVE AIDE-MEMOIRE TO QUADRIA AND INFORM HIM THAT WE ARE ALSO CONTACTING OTHER TREATY PARTIES.

7. OTHER ADDRESSEES: PLEASE CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN HOST GOVERNMENTS, INFORMING THEM OF ARGENTINE AIDE-MEMOIRE AND OUR REPLY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF THEIR POSITIONS ON THIS MATTER

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PAGE 05 STATE 200506

BY COB AUGUST 26. SEND INFO COPIES TO AMEMBASSY LONDON.

8. LONDON: PLEASE ALSO CONTACT GEORGE HEMMON,  
SECRETARY OF SCAR, FOR HIS VIEWS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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